

# Promoting Alternative Manure Manure Management: Understanding Technical Assistance Needs and Opportunities for AMMP



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May 2018



# CA Climate and Agriculture Network (CalCAN):

- \* Coalition of sustainable and organic agriculture organizations and farmer leaders
- \* Elevate farmer voices in climate change policy discussions
- \* Legislative and administrative policy advocacy
- \* Outreach and education



# Understanding Technical Assistance Delivery for AMMP

- \* AMMP Second Round of Funding (spring 2018):
  - \* CDFA funded 8 teams of technical service providers to host AMMP workshops for producers and provide application assistance.
    - \* 3 Resource Conservation Districts
    - \* 2 Cooperative Extension staff
    - \* 2 environmental nonprofits
    - \* 1 industry trade group
    - \* 1 UC Davis professor
- \* Workshops Held in April:
  - \* 9 Central Valley counties
  - \* 4 North coast counties
  - \* 1 San Diego County

# TA Provider Interviews

- \* & Interviews: 2 RCDs, 1 UCD, 1 Extension, 1 industry trade group, 1 nonprofit, 1 producer – Thanks to Noah Lakritz, CalCAN intern
- \* Why provide TA?
- \* How did you do the outreach?
- \* What kinds of projects were producers interested in?
- \* How many producers did you reach?
- \* What challenges/barriers were there to applying?
- \* What were your experiences with the program?
- \* What recommendations would you make?



# TA Provider Experiences

## \* Variety of outreach methods:

- \* Existing relationships with producers
- \* Outreach to dairy companies, Farm Bureau
- \* Emailed producers (e.g. one provider emailed 400 producers)
- \* Mailed postcards

## \*Numbers of producers who participated in workshops:

- \*Highs of 15 producers per workshop, low of 2 producers at one workshop
- \*Most did some level of one-one-assistance

## \*Time Spent:

One estimate of time to complete the application: 80-100 hours

# TA Provider Feedback

- \* Application complex, overwhelming for producers and TA providers; Time intensive application
- \* Permit requirements are challenging – difficult to navigate for most producers – especially tough in coastal areas
- \* General lack of experience for producers with grant applications, grant writing, computer skills
- \* Easier for younger producers to apply
- \* Not enough time for one-on-one assistance; Many felt they couldn't meet the demands for their time.

# TA Provider Feedback

- \* **Program Guidelines:**

- \* Many of the application questions seemed better suited to Central Valley producers than North coast producers
- \* Section on quantifying environmental impact was not standardized – difficult to respond
- \* Producer feedback – most complicated application ever done

- \* **Reimbursement for TA Providers**

- \* Inadequate funding for providers as they did not have enough resources to do adequate one-on-one assistance
- \* CDFA reimbursement policy and timing were difficult for some.

# Additional Feedback

- \* **Inadequate engineering and design resources**

- \* Lack of engineers on the North coast and Central Valley

- \* **Timing challenges:**

- \* TA providers didn't know if they were funded to do TA until after the program RFA was announced.

- \* **Growing interest in the program**

- \* Some providers have seen growing industry interest in the program, improved capacity to apply



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